

**Testimony of Waleska Villilla
Family School Connection Program
Madonna Place, Inc.
240 Main Street
Norwich, CT 06360**

**Prepared for the Appropriations Committee
Public Hearing – March 3, 2015
Public Hearing on the Governor's Proposed Budget**

My name is Waleska Villilla and I have been with Family School Connection for almost a year. I am personally asking you not to cut funding for Family School Connection Program. This program has made a big difference, not only in my children's life, but my life as well. If I did not have this program I probably would be jobless and homeless. This program came to me at a time when I did not know what to do. My 5 year old son was acting up in school and I had to keep taking off work to go and get him. My son's behavior had become so bad that he could not stay at school the whole day. At first I was embarrassed and ashamed to have someone come in to my home to help me with my kids. But my home visitor Fallyn from Family School Connection makes me feel so comfortable that I can and do talk to her about anything going on in my life good or bad. Honestly that feeling of comfort would be the number one reason I love this program. At first I didn't even know what the program was about. My son's school gave me the information and at that point I was willing to try anything. Since I've had The Family School Connection program I can honestly say it's the best program that has ever happened to me. From the program I have learned better skills to aid my sons and because of these parenting skills that I have been taught, my son now stays a full day at school, his grades are better, and the school is calling him the best success story for the year. They are amazed at how much he has improved and even my relationship with the school has grown stronger in a positive way. This program has not only just helped my children but it has helped me to become more confident and a better advocate for my son. I am learning strengths that I never believe I had. I am coming up with and finishing goals that I never thought I would be able to achieve. Currently right now I am working on obtaining my driver's license. Family School Connection has help me every step of the way. And I am up to the challenge because I have my Family School Connection Program as support behind me. Not only is this program helping me but they are also giving me the tools so that in the future I will still be able to be confident about going out and achieving goals on my own. So please I am asking you not to cut Family School Connection because without them I honestly do not know where I would be right now. And if they can give me hope imagine what Family School Connection could do for many more families.